

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

18th Congress

1st Regular Session

House Bill 921



Introduced by Honorable BAYANI F. FERNANDO

AN ACT
TO PROMOTE A NEW PILIPINO GESTURE OF GOODWILL AND PRAISE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The medical profession has established for ages that the traditional handshake is a risk to health; with the innocent well-meaning gesture of handshake communicable diseases are transferred from person to person.

This house bill seeks to promote the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest with simultaneously a slight head nod and an appropriate verbal greeting as "The Pilipino Official Gesture of Goodwill and Praise" as an alternative to the traditional handshake.

Furthermore, placing the hand over the chest is a gesture of good faith coming from the heart, while the nod is a traditional Pilipino gesture of respect.

The purpose of this bill is in accord with article II, Section 15 of the 1987 constitution, which provides:

"Sec. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them"

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



BAYANI F. FERNANDO
1st District, Marikina

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Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Pagbating Pilipino”

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – Article II, Section 15 of the Constitution states that shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Whereas, the medical profession has established for ages that the traditional handshake is a risk to health. The innocent well-meaning gesture of handshake transfers communicable diseases are transferred from person to person.

Whereas, the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest and simultaneously with a slight head nod and an appropriate verbal greeting as “The Pilipino Official Gesture of Goodwill and Praise” is a better alternative to the traditional handshake.

Whereas, placing the hand over the chest is a universal gesture of good faith coming from the heart, while the nod is a traditional Pilipino gesture of respect.

Section 3. Definition of Terms – For purposes of this Act, the term:

1. **Infectious Disease** – likely to be transmitted to people from another host or the environment
2. **Goodwill** – of trust and good faith among a companion
3. **Gesture** – a movement expressing faith or camaraderie
4. **Praise** – to show admiration and respect towards a person

Section 4. Promotion Campaign. - The Philippine Information Agency shall take the lead to promote this practice and shall be practiced in all government offices.

Section 5. Appropriations - Such sum as may be necessary for the implementation of this Act is hereby appropriated.

Section 6. Separability Clause - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

Section 7. Repealing Clause - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

Section 8. Effectivity Clause - This Act shall take effect after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.